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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

278

7590

11/18/2010

MICHAEL J. STRIKER
103 EAST NECK ROAD
HUNTINGTON, NY 11743

EXAMINER

ZENATI, AMAL S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2010

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/590,857

08/25/2006

Ruud De Wit

3794

1346

TITLE OF INVENTION: CONFERENCE SYSTEM DISCUSSION UNIT WITH EXCHANGEABLE MODULES

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	02/18/2011

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

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**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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278 7590 11/18/2010

MICHAEL J. STRIKER
103 EAST NECK ROAD
HUNTINGTON, NY 11743

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/590,857	08/25/2006	Ruud De Wit	3794	1346

TITLE OF INVENTION: CONFERENCE SYSTEM DISCUSSION UNIT WITH EXCHANGEABLE MODULES

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	02/18/2011

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
ZENATI, AMAL S	2614	379-204010

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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10/590,857	08/25/2006	Ruud De Wit	3794	1346
278	7590	11/18/2010	EXAMINER	
MICHAEL J. STRIKER 103 EAST NECK ROAD HUNTINGTON, NY 11743			ZENATI, AMAL S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2614	
DATE MAILED: 11/18/2010				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 868 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 868 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/590,857	DE WIT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	AMAL ZENATI	2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/07/2010.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 12-19,21 and 23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
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DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to applicant's Arguments and remarks filed October 07, 2010.

Response to Arguments

1. The Rejection under 35 USC 103(e) with respect to claims 12, 19, 21, and 23 is withdrawn based on Examiner's Amendment and the Applicant's argument with respect to rejected claim 21.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with I. Zborovsky, Reg. No. 28563 on October 25, 2010. The applicant representative, I. Zborovsky agreed to the following changes without prejudice. (See the attached supplemental Amendment that has been sent by fax to Examiner on October 25, 2010, page 1-6).

The amendment as the following:

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Claims 20 and 22 are cancelled.

Claim 12. A discussion unit ~~for use~~ in a conference system and connectable to at least one second discussion element of the conference system, said discussion unit comprising means for switching between at least two operating modes; at least one exchangeable control out of a set of controls including at least one control for each of the operating modes, said at least one exchangeable control being configured to indicate to a user an operating mode currently used and to allow the user to control the discussion unit; a casing; and a configuration switch for configuring the discussion unit to operate in one of the operating modes, wherein the configuration switch is accessible only when the casing is in a disassembled state ~~and; and an ejector facility including at least one opening which allows for a user to push said at least one exchangeable control out of said casing.~~”

Claim 21. An ejector tool to be used for a discussion unit ~~for use~~ in a conference system and connectable to at least one second discussion element of the conference system, said discussion unit comprising means for switching between at least two operating modes, at least one exchangeable control out of a set of controls including at least one control for each of the operating modes, said at least one exchangeable control being configured to indicate to a user an operating mode currently used and to allow the user to control the discussion unit, with a casing, wherein the ejector tool has a tool element configured with two parallel arms for pushing a pair of pins comprising the at least one exchangeable control, which pair of pins are inserted in ejector openings within the casing, in order to eject and remove the at least one exchangeable control from the casing.”

Claim 23. A conference system, comprising at least two discussion units each provided ~~for use~~ in a conference system and connectable with one another, wherein each of said discussion units includes means for switching between at least two operating modes, at least one exchangeable control out of a set of controls including at least one control for each of the operating modes, said at least one exchangeable

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control being configured to indicate to a user an operating mode currently used and to allow the user to control the discussion unit, and at least one additional exchangeable control out of the set of controls and including at least one control for each of the operating modes, wherein the at least one additional exchangeable control is adapted to indicate to a user an operated mode currently used and to allow for the user to control the discussion unit; a casing; and a configuration switch for configuring the discussion unit to operate in one of the operating modes, wherein the configuration switch is accessible only when the casing is in a disassembled state; and an ejector facility including at least one opening which allows for a user to push said at least one exchangeable control out of said casing.”

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 12-19, 21, and 23 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner’s statement of reason for allowance:

The prior art specifically **Woods et al (Pub. No. US 2005/0271194 A1)**, **Meyerson et al (Pub. No.: US 2003/0118175 A1; hereinafter Meyerson)**, **Owen (Pub. No.: US 2004/0073500 A1)** and **Kusano (Pub. No.: US 2005/0022621 A1)** and **Daily et al (Pub. No.: US 2005/0257369 A1; hereinafter Daily)** failed to render obviousness in combination or individually, and failed to anticipate individually the following limitations:

“a discussion unit comprising an ejector facility including at least one opening which allows for a user to push said at least one exchangeable control out of said casing.” as disclosed in independent claims 12 and 23; and “wherein the ejector tool has a tool element configured with two parallel arms for pushing a pair of pins comprising the at least one exchangeable control, which pair of pins are inserted in ejector openings within the casing, in order to eject and remove the at least one exchangeable control from the casing.” as disclosed in independent claim 21.

Moreover, the invention discloses a multi-functional discussion unit that comprise an ejector facility have two ejector opening, cylindrical holes in the backside of the casing, which are located within a push-button, the push-button comprises pins which are adapted to match with the ejector opening and also adapted to match with an ejector tool that has two parallel arms suited for being pushed through the ejector openings from the backside of the casing in order to push the pins of the push-button out of the ejector opening for the purpose of replacing buttons by a user for design change. In addition, Applicant's arguments and remarks, in page 12, states “while Daily may disclose an electronic component extractor tool 10, Daily's Fig. 1 and paragraphs [0008], [0011] and [0022], describe tool 10 as comprising opposing deflectable arms 12, 14, with substantially identical ends 20 having ledges 22, 24 (Fig. 2) to catch side edges of electronic components. When pushed together, arms 12, 14 are not parallel. But perhaps more importantly, **Daily's tool 10 and arms 12, 14 with ledges 22, 24 are for grasping and contacting, not for pushing out a pair of pins, as claimed.**” [Emphasize added]. For all the above reasons, **independent claims 12, 21, and 23 are allowed. Claims 13-19 are depended of independent claim 12;** therefore, claims 13-19 are allowed for their dependency from independent claim 12.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amal Zenati whose telephone number is 571-270-1947. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on 571- 272- 7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571- 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/CURTIS KUNTZ/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2614

/Amal Zenati/
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2614

October 26, 2010

Application/Control Number: 10/590,857
Art Unit: 2614

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